



ALEXANDRIA:

MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1861.

CONGRESS.—The Senate spent Saturday in the discussion of the various compromise propositions, but took a recess without taking a vote on any of them. The House passed a resolution censuring the Secretary of the Navy; returned thanks to the Speaker, and transacted other business. It then took a recess till 10 o'clock, to-day.

STATE CONVENTION.—In the Convention, on Saturday, Mr. Goode, of Mecklenburg, concluded his speech, and Mr. Goode, of Bedford, offered a resolution, which was referred, for submitting a secession ordinance to the people. Mr. Fisher offered anti-secession resolutions which were referred.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The Senate, on Saturday, receded from its amendment, striking out the fourth section of the bill for the relief of the Banks. The bill is now a law. In the House of Delegates, the bill for the relief of the Banks of the State was returned from the Senate and a proviso was adopted that the Banks shall not be required to contribute specie on State account beyond the amount necessary to pay the interest on the public debt. A resolution of enquiry was adopted. Resolutions were reported for amending the law in reference to damages against the Sheriff; an act was reported for the better organization of the militia of the Commonwealth.

THE INAUGURATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, as President of the United States, takes place to-day, at 12 o'clock, at the Capitol, in Washington. The oath of office will be administered by the Chief Justice. There will be a great crowd in attendance. No difficulty is apprehended and no disturbance threatened. The inaugural address of the new President is looked for with much interest.

The Rockingham Register has an article on the question, "Shall the Democratic party be destroyed?" The question has been answered, to all intents and purposes, by the events of the last few months. Nevertheless, the Register contends that the "Democratic party" ought not to surrender their organization. The Southern ultraists have not waited for any "surrender." They have gone on, just as if there had never been a Democratic party in existence—that is, out of their own balliwick. They have left the Democrats in the Border States to take care of themselves—but have been careful to look after the interests of their own household, in the "Southern Confederacy."

Late accounts from Texas, furnish an explanation of Gen. Twiggs' connection with the recent seizure of the federal property in that State. On the night of the 15th ult., Major Ben McCulloch, at the head of eight hundred rangers, entered the town of San Antonio, and in the name of the Convention seized upon the arsenal and stores at that place. After the seizure McCulloch and Gen. Twiggs entered into negotiations; and while the negotiations were going on, Gen. Twiggs received notice that he had been superseded in his command by Col. Waite. Gen. Twiggs immediately turned the matter over to Col. Waite. In consequence of this change in the aspect of the affair, the case of Gen. Twiggs has been superseded by the War Department until the receipt of official information.

The following extract from a letter dated London, February 8, 1861, and written by the Duke of Newcastle, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to a gentleman of New York, we may quote (says the Boston Courier) as a candid and voluntary expression of English opinion, and one entitled to more than usual importance, considering the eminent source from which it emanates: "Let me assure you, and those with whom you are associated, how anxiously we all desire in this country to see a happy termination to the troubles which are now afflicting the United States. The accounts from these are watched with an intensity of interest scarcely less than that which, three years ago, attached to every mail from India."

Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Corwin, and Mr. Hamlin, were serenaded in Washington, by the Republicans, last Thursday, and made complimentary speeches; Mr. Lincoln saying that "he and his party would give to the people all their rights under the Constitution, fully and fairly. They were in no way disposed, if it was in their power, to oppress those opposed to them politically, or to deprive them of any of their rights under the Constitution, or even narrowly split hairs in regard to those rights." As the South is now demanding rights and guarantees, let it be seen that they are awarded by the States and the General Government.

Major Anderson who is in daily communication with the War Department, writes that the batteries and other works of the South Carolinians are nearly completed, and that unless the Southern Congress interpose he expects Fort Sumter will be attacked immediately after the 4th inst. It appears that there is a large party in South Carolina who ignore the Southern Congress, particularly as regards military operations in Charleston harbor, while the Governor and the conservatives generally are disposed to abide by the directions of the authorities of the Confederate States.

A special dispatch from Richmond to the Washington Star, states on the highest authority that Judge Brockenborough of Virginia, was willing to vote for the Peace Convention propositions as a whole, and as they had been adopted, he can be counted in, and Virginia also. That the propositions offered will receive a vote of two thirds of the (Virginia) Convention is certain, there is very little doubt; but tremendous efforts are making here to bring everything to bear to prevent to desirable a consummation.

John Mitchell writes to the Charleston Mercury, from Paris, that the Spaniards begin to take alarm from their fears of the designs of the Southern Confederacy. The *Epoca*, a Madrid paper, calls for additional reinforcements of Spanish troops to be sent to Cuba, and "earnestly warns its government that the danger, which was remote, contingent and visionary while two separate nations and two incompatible systems of society were neutralizing one another in the American Union—becomes imminent, now that each is shaking itself loose of the other, and preparing to go its own way."

Archibald Gracie, Jr., a native of Elizabeth, New Jersey, returned to that place, from the South, last week, and upon notice given of tar and feathers, had to quit the town. He was a graduate of West Point, recently went to the South, resigned, commanded a volunteer company in Alabama, and assisted in the seizure of Fortress Morgan.

The Philadelphia Ledger advises the new President, if he wants to make a favorable impression at the South, to say a few manly words to-day, renouncing the idea of victory and spoils, and declaring a restoration of the principles of Washington, that denunciate all shall cause removals, and merit and fitness alone be made the test of appointments.

At the late Court Ball at the Palace of the Tuilleries, in Paris, a number of American ladies were present; and the Empress, herself the fairest of the fair, told Mr. Faulkner that she had "never seen an assemblage of such beautiful ladies" as our countrywomen at the Tuilleries that evening.

The National Intelligencer reiterates its often expressed objection to the policy of "coercion," and its belief that no such policy can be sustained.

The Steamer Adriatic, the last steamer built by Steers, has been sold to the Galway company for \$87,500. She has cost in all, including new engines, \$1,200,000.

The Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle invites Southern publishers to reprint at the South Northern copy righted works!

Accounts from all the neighboring counties in Virginia, speak favorably of the present appearance of the growing wheat.

Hon. Jefferson Davis, was expected in Charleston, last Thursday.

The "bitterness" and "intolerance" of some of the friends of Immediate Secession, in Virginia, are commented on with spirit by the Petersburg Intelligencer. The Richmond Whig, also, takes up the subject, and adds, that for itself, "it despises and defies all bluster and bravado" of the kind referred to. We would hope that the impudence and arrogance and the attempted dictation, of which our cotemporaries speak, are limited to *but few*. Certainly, intelligent, sensible men, no matter what may be their opinions on the subject of Secession, can have no desire to countenance any course like the one denounced by the Whig and Intelligencer. If Secession is brought about, Virginia will have need for good feeling, kindness, and courtesy among her own citizens. The terms "submissionist," "traitor," "rebel," and all such, are as rude and insulting as they are out of place—and are only provocative of recrimination. Of course, we speak of and to *sensible* men. There are now and then found others to whom such good advice need not be offered, for obvious reasons.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Valley Star says:—Capt. M. S. Kahle, has a model of a cannon, invented by himself and Mr. Hartman, which he says could be fired a whole day without stopping, at the rate of about 30 shots per minute. The inventors intend applying for a patent. The model has been sent to the Governor of Virginia, to be examined by him and the military officers of the State at Richmond.

Mr. Edward McCarthy for several years Deputy Collector at the Richmond Custom House, has been elected Treasurer of the Richmond and Peninsula Railroad Company, and successor to John Vaughn, deceased.

Mr. McCarthy's place, at the Custom House, has been supplied by the appointment of Mr. Archibald T. Harrison, brother of the Collector.

The Fredericksburg Herald says: "We understand that a family named Pate, residing in this county, near the Orange county line, have lost seven children by diphtheria within the last three weeks. The father and mother have thus been bereft of their entire offspring, the youngest, an infant, dying last."

On Wednesday night last an infant child was found placed on the porch of the residence of Hugh Scott, esp. of Fredericksburg. The basket contained a card and note, to the effect that the child was born in Stafford, its mother having been deceived, and the request that it should be named "Oscar H. B. Sanford."

Tom Scott, John Hill and Christopher Stevens, all prominent free negro carpenters, and well known in Petersburg, were arrested last Friday afternoon, and lodged in jail. The reported cause for these arrests is the finding of a mysterious letter written by one of the parties, which implicated the others.

A meeting of the farmers of Culpeper, as well as all interested, will be held at the Court House on the 18th inst., for the purpose of forming a Vigilance Committee. The object in view is to rid the county of all characters suspected of trading with negroes.

Messrs. E. R. Watson and Drury Wood were ordained Elders, in the Presbyterian Church of Charlottesville, on Sunday week, and Mr. Mrs. Edward Benner and John L. Massie Deacons.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

Capt. Pope, of the United States Army, one of Mr. Lincoln's travelling suite, delivered a lecture a fortnight since in Cincinnati, upon fortifications, which was published the next day. Mr. Buchanan thinking that Capt. Pope referred disrespectfully to the President of the United States, and thus violated the fourth article of war, has ordered him to be Court-Martialed. The trial will take place at Newport, Kentucky, on the 4th of March. Capt. Hazard, another member of the suite, with Major Heintzman, have been ordered there in connection with the same affair. The charges against the Captain are for "using contemptuous and disrespectful words against the President of the United States."

The Southern Congress has passed the postal bill, which regulates the rate of postage, and all matters connected with the carrying of the mails, &c. It will go into effect very soon. It provides the following rates of postage: On letters 300 miles five cents; over 300 miles ten cents; advertised letters two cents extra, instead of one. On newspapers (other than those sent direct to actual subscribers from the office of publication) two cents each, and the entire rates of newspaper and magazine postage is doubled on present U. S. rates. The registration letter system and the franking privilege is abolished.

The Chicago correspondent of the United States Police Gazette—"Whiplash"—was arrested there last week upon a charge of libelling several respectable citizens. Upon searching his apartments an undischarged communication was discovered, containing an infamous libel upon several judicial officers of Chicago. When arrested he attempted to cut his throat, with a razor, and subsequently, during his examination, sent to a drug store for prussic acid. The druggist, suspecting something wrong, dispensed colored water instead, which, upon receiving, the prisoner swallowed. He was held to bail to answer the charge of malicious libel.

The San Antonio Herald of the 10th ult., brings us some of the circumstances attending the surrender of the military property in Texas. It does not clearly appear that Gen. Twiggs "surrendered," as has been alleged, unless Captain Reynolds, at the headquarters, San Antonio, acted under his orders, when the old Texan Ranger, McCulloch, with 600 men, demanded it. Probably there was a demand to surrender, with forces, sent to each United States post, and that General Twiggs had laid the previous train to bring about the surrender in detail.

The Democracy of Rhode Island met on Tuesday, at Providence, for the purpose of making nominations to be supported at the approaching spring election. A motion was made early in the session to postpone all action until the 6th of March, and it was debated through the day, and finally carried with only one dissenting voice. The Constitutional Union party also met on the same day at Providence, and followed the course adopted by the Democrats.

The Monthly Table of Marine Losses for the past month shows an aggregate of forty-eight vessels, of which four were ships, eleven were barkers, nine were brigs, and twenty-four were schooners. The total value of property lost and missing was one million two hundred and thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-five dollars. This is the value of the property totally lost, exclusive of damage to vessels not amounting to a total loss.

A line of steamships is proposed to be started between Charleston and Liverpool. Men of capital in London have offered to build three iron screw propellers, and to form a joint stock company, with a capital of \$750,000, if one-half is subscribed in Charleston. At a meeting of the merchants of the latter city, held last week, the proposition was accepted, and a committee appointed to solicit subscriptions.

The New Orleans Price Current gives the report of the commerce of that port for February, compared with that of 1860, as follows: The number of vessels in port in February was 83 ships, 20 barges, 9 brigs, 14 schooners; total 126. For February, 1861, ships 143, barges 44, brigs 11, schooners 32; total 226—a falling off of over forty per cent. for one month of secession.

A party of gentlemen started in a pilot-boat from New York, on Wednesday last, to be present at the inauguration ceremonies at Washington; but being overtaken with sickness off Barnegat, they employed a tug to tow the vessel back, on Thursday. They were all placed in the quarantine hospital.

We have already mentioned the fact that on the 8th of February a duel was fought near Danesville, on the Florida and Georgia line, between Edwin Hart, editor of the Florida Sentinel, and Crittenden Coleman. Both were killed on the ground. Coleman was a near relative to Senator Crittenden.

Freight from Liverpool to New York were never so low as they now are. In the article of iron, freights average from 9s. to 10s. They have been as high as 17s. and as low as 8s.—Now, however, offers are freely made by shipowners to carry iron to America for 3s. a ton.

It is reported that the result of the Court of Inquiry in the matter of Captain Armstrong has been the ordering a Court Martial for his trial for surrendering the Navy Yard at Pensacola. The officers to compose the court have not yet been named.

An ambitious American in Paris, has offered to Prince Napoleon to give testimony to prove that the marriage of Jerome Bonaparte with Miss Patterson, of Baltimore, was not regarded as legitimate in this country.

The Governor of South Carolina acknowledges donations from six different parties, for the defence of the State, amounting in the aggregate to \$2,650, of which \$500 is from a citizen of New York.

Mack, the fat boy recently exhibiting at Barnum's Museum, in New York, died on Wednesday. The boy was 7 years old, weighed 240 pounds, and died of excessive fatness.

At Philadelphia, March 1, Gen. Paez sailed in the Joseph Maxwell, for Venezuela. The pier was crowded, and three cheers were given for the old patriot.

In an affray near Memphis, on the 22d ult., two young men named Peatote and Laws were both killed. The former was shot and the latter stabbed.

Mrs. Anderson, of Baltimore, has taken a stand among the very foremost of our artists. Her forte seems to be in painting dead game, fish, &c.

Stewart P. Ivey's sash and blind factory, in Wilmington, North Carolina, was set on fire and totally destroyed on Wednesday night. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

At Albany, March 1, the ice went out the river opposite the city and ferry boats are now running. The weather was quite warm. The question in Louisiana is now not whether a man is "right on the goose," but is he "right on the pelican?"

VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

In the Convention on Friday, Mr. Sheffield offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Commissioners of Virginia to the late Peace Conference, at Washington, be requested at as early a period as may be agreeable to them, after they shall have reported according to the provisions of the act of Assembly appointing them, to explain severally, before the Convention, their views of the action of said Conference, and of its result, and that Commissioners Hon. Wm. C. Rives, Hon. John W. Brockenbrough, and Hon. James A. Seddon be invited by the President to occupy seats in this Convention.

Mr. Price offered the following as a substitute, which, after considerable discussion, was adopted—yeas 71, nays 50:

Resolved, That the President of this Convention be instructed to invite the Hon. W. C. Rives, the Hon. James A. Seddon, the Hon. John W. Brockenbrough and Hon. John Robertson, to occupy seats upon this floor.

The resolution as amended was adopted. Mr. Goggin corrected a misapprehension of the views presented by him in his speech of Monday. He was not in favor of a Central Confederacy, but believed that before Virginia should take any step whatever, it was her duty to take counsel with the border slaveholding States.

Mr. Moore also made a personal explanation, in consequence of an unintentional misrepresentation of his position by the gentleman from Greene, (Mr. Morton.) He proceeded to say that he did not regard slavery as an evil, at least so far as the slaves are concerned. He was fully convinced that no laboring class upon earth enjoyed more comfort, were better fed, or better clothed, than the slaves in the United States. Virginia slaveists in some form or other in every nation, and there are more slaves in England than in all the South put together, if we regard slavery in its essence and not its mere name.

Mr. M. also corrected another misrepresentation by declaring that his position on the question where Virginia is to go, was not susceptible of doubt. He did not mean to go anywhere. He did not intend to go with the North, or to be "dragged" to the South.

Mr. Garland submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations:

Resolved, That an ordinance should be passed by the Convention submitting to the qualified voters of the State the question whether Virginia should remain attached to the Northern Confederacy, or whether she should secede and unite her destiny with the States of the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. Echols presented the following resolutions, which were referred to the same committee:

1. Resolved, That in the present political complications of our country, it is the duty of the Congress of the United States to recognize the separate and independent nationality of the States that have united themselves under the name of the Confederate States of America.

2. Resolved, That concurrently with such recognition a treaty should be made between the two governments, which treaty should, among other things, provide for, first, the perpetual prohibition of the African Slave Trade, and second, the Free Navigation of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Bissau submitted the following resolutions, which were similarly disposed of:

1. Resolved, That the Union was formed by the voluntary partnership of the States, the equal and sovereign parties to the compact of Union, known as the Constitution; and that the Federal Government is the creature and common agent of the States, created by them for certain purposes specified in the Constitution, and having no powers except those delegated; that when the people of Virginia, in Convention assembled, ratified the Constitution of the United States, they declared that the powers which they thereby granted might be resumed by them whenever the same should be perverted to their injury or oppression; and the people of Virginia, and not the Federal Government, are the judges of the necessity of such resumption.

2. Resolved, That the occasion has now arisen which justifies the people of Virginia in resuming the said powers, and when they resume the same, they will then, as a free and independent State, have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which an independent State may of right do; and no Government or people on earth will have any right to collect any revenue in any form or under any disguise or evasion on her soil or territory in any way with her commerce; nor shall any form of magazines, armaments or dock yards in her limits; but the State will account with the United States for their rights of property in the same, on just, fair, equitable terms.

Mr. Duran offered the following resolutions, which were also referred to the same Committee:

1. Resolved, That the Federal Union was made by the people of the several States, and can rightfully be dissolved by the power alone that made it.

2. Resolved, That Virginia should use her best efforts to procure a direct vote of the people of all the States, including those which have seceded from the Union, upon the alternative proposition of disunion or adjustment on the basis of the Peace Conference proposition; and that she will therefore co-operate with such States as concur with her in the result of their votes.

Mr. Baylor then took the floor and proceeded with his remarks, commenced on the previous day, on the subject of Federal Relations. He declared that the Old Commonwealth should remain in the Union a while longer, at any rate, before he was disposed to throw her out at the window. No people ever yet obtained their rights by running a way from them. Whilst he was opposed to secession, he was also opposed to coercion, both from principle and policy. He wanted the parties to settle their difficulties peacefully. In defining his position, Mr. B. said he was in favor of exhausting all fair and honorable means for a settlement by a resort to constitutional measures, which he did not think had been done yet. He believed that all our difficulties could be settled, in support of which belief he referred to the large number of conservative men in the North, and expressed the belief that thousands who voted for Lincoln would now vote against him if the election were taken over.

Mr. B. read extracts from "Washington's Farewell Address," and declared that he was willing to live and die by the advice of Washington. He was not willing that this government—the best which God had ever permitted a free people to enjoy—should be broken up because Black Republicans elected years ago are not willing to save it. He would favor laying down a proposition as a basis of settlement, and then give the northern people time to reflect and act. If they refused to concede to us their just rights, he would say, let us part in peace; if they attempted to make war, they would find the people of Virginia united against them.

Mr. Montague quoted from the "Farewell Address" to show that Washington regarded the Government as an "experiment," and that it should not be broken up until experience has shown its impracticability.

Mr. Turner, of Jackson, defined his position. He had been devoted to the Union, but for the Union as it now exists he has but little affection. He was not in favor of precipitate action, but of calm and mature deliberation, and if the alternative is then pre-

sented as to which Confederacy he would be attached to, all his inclinations and interests, and those of the State, as he believed, would induce us to connect ourselves with the Southern Confederacy. He was altogether opposed to a Central Confederacy.

Mr. Goode of Mecklenburg, then took the floor, and said that in his opinion, Virginia should not acquiesce in the plan of adjustment adopted by the Peace Congress, and it never will be acquiesced in while the hearts of her sons are alive to her best interests and high honor. He intimated a desire to address the convention to-morrow.

The resolution of Mr. Sheffield, concerning the Peace Commissioners, was then submitted and discussed, as above stated, after which,

On motion of Mr. Hall, of Marion, the convention adjourned.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Friday, on motion of Mr. Dickinson, of Prince Edward, (for Mr. Richmond,) it was resolved to inquire into the expediency of authorizing a branch of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, or the Bank of the Commonwealth, at Lebanon, in the county of Russell.

The following joint resolution proposed by Mr. Brannon on yesterday, was taken up and adopted:

Whereas, The State of Virginia holds in her own right certain bonds of the Hillsboro' and Cincinnati Railroad Company, which from the unfinished condition of said road, and the uncertainty surrounding its future prospects, may render it expedient to convert the same into other securities or to make sale thereof; Therefore be it

Resolved, by the General Assembly, That the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund be, and they are hereby, authorized, should they deem it best for the interest of the State, to convert said bonds into stocks or other securities; or to make sale thereof as in their judgment may be deemed most conducive to the interest of the State.

The bill for the relief of the Banks, as reported from the House, was taken up, when Mr. Thomas, of E., moved that the Senate recede from its amendment striking out the 4th section of the bill.

Mr. August opposed the proposition, and moved to lay on the table.

The motion of Mr. Thomas was then agreed to.

All the other amendments proposed by the House were agreed to—thus adopting the whole bill as it came from the House.

The bill releasing the schooner Pauline from the payment of the fine of \$500 for an alleged violation of the inspection laws, was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

In the House of Delegates, the House were informed by Mr. Anderson, of Bortourt, that the 1st Auditor construct the provisions of the bill which passed yesterday as requiring the Banks to contribute specie to provide for the Sinking Fund, which would require \$500,000 in specie additional to be required. Therefore, he asked the House to request the Senate to return the bill for purposes of amendment.

The Bank bill was returned from the Senate, and Mr. Anderson offered the following amendment to the 5th section: Provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Banks of this Commonwealth to contribute specie beyond the amount necessary to pay the interest on the public debt.

Mr. Keen moved to provide further that the Banks of this Commonwealth shall, at their discretion, issue notes of a less denomination than five dollars; to an amount not exceeding ten per cent. on their capital; and provided, also, that no notes of such denomination shall be issued after the 1st of March, 1862; all laws enforcing the penalty for the issue of such notes is hereby suspended till such time.

The amendment was rejected—yeas 9, noes 107.

Mr. Anderson's amendment was then adopted, and, on his motion, the bill was sent back to the Senate.

Afterwards, a message was received from the Senate, through Mr. Brannon, that it had receded from their amendments, and agreed to the passage of the Bank bill as passed by the House.

A bill was passed for paying Virginia Commissioners to the President and succeeding States.

Among the resolutions of inquiry adopted were the following: By Mr. Barbour—of relieving the Sheriff of Culpeper from certain fines, &c.; of amending the law in reference to damages against Sheriffs; of giving holders of land under patent an absolute title after ten years' possession and paying taxes.

Mr. Buchanan—"E. B." writes from Washington to the N. Y. Express as follows of the closing days of Buchanan's Administration, "the reflection in which he indulges, how he proposes to ride with Old Abe to the Capitol on Monday next, and then go home to Lancaster and join the Church. The little sketch of 'E. B.' is pregnant with instruction to those in high place, who unnecessarily abandon life-long and tried friends to gain some trivial point of trifling importance."

"It is popular to abuse Mr. Buchanan, for he has no power, and but few friends. The Republicans delight to call him tyrant, knave, and rogue, and Democrats denounce him as an idiot, rogue, and an imbecile."

But in sober truth, he is none of these, but one who, after over forty years of public service, has made and lost more friends than perhaps any man who ever before held public office in the country. In six months after his election he quarrelled with some of his best personal friends, and later with thousands more. Of a party of thirty-five life long and attached men with whom he dined in Philadelphia, after his election and before his inauguration, not one now remains to call him friend, or to feel an interest in his future.

The genius of the President seems to have been in repulsion rather than attraction, and hence no one honors the setting sun. Mr. Buchanan has—and to his credit be it spoken—felt all these changes of personal fortune much less than the sad condition of the country, which distinguishes his Administration above all which ever preceded it. Intimate acquaintances have seen for three months past that a real sorrow has been wearing upon the mind and heart of the President. He has declared for many weeks here that he should see the President elect inaugurated, hear his oath to support the Constitution, and then go to his home.

"In the midst of this great excitement and threatened danger here, he has said: 'I shall ride beside Mr. Lincoln, from the White House to the Capitol, even if it rains bullets. I shall then go to Lancaster, pass my days in retirement, and seek to find consolation and religion in the Church. Bitter sorrow has taught me that happiness can be found nowhere else.' Mr. Buchanan, therefore, purposes at once upon his return to his old homestead to become a member of the Presbyterian Church, in which he has usually worshipped. He feels—and let us attribute it rather to good than to bad impressions—as deeply sorrowful for the condition of the country as the rest of us."

The imports of dry goods at New York for week ending March 1, show a decrease of \$2,430,832, as compared with the last year.

Anxious "seekers" for the loaves and fishes, are now seen in shoals in Washington.

Hon. J. Morton's Speech.

In the Virginia Convention on Thursday, Mr. Morton took the floor and proceeded with his remarks. He alluded to the magnitude of the subjects which the Convention was called to consider. He had listened with pain and pleasure to the discussions in this body. He regretted that the gentleman from Rockbridge, (Mr. Moore,) who was not in his seat, had not undergone a change of sentiment in thirty years, while a change had swept over the country, and he was almost ready to say, over the world. Thirty years ago, that gentleman believed that slavery was a moral, social and political evil, and he regretted the expressions that indicated similar opinions still. He next alluded to the remarks of the gentleman from Bedford, (Mr. Goggin,) and welcomed the sentiment that when it comes to coercion, he would be found fighting under the flag of Virginia. But they had not dwelt sufficiently upon the wrongs of the South. He then gave a historical sketch of the rise and progress of the anti-slavery party, and proceeded to consider the recent acts of the Black Republicans. He thought there was no chance of effecting any change in public sentiment at the North. Lincoln was elected upon the single principle of hostility to the South. They had the Executive power of the Government, and how long would it be before they would secure the Judiciary, also? With every Department in the hands of the Black Republican party, and administered upon the plan dictated by Wm. H. Seward, how long would Virginia be safe? Under the distribution of the official patronage, how long would it be before a man might come to think the wrong the better side? If we stay together for twelve months, he thought there would be most beneficial showers of patronage upon Virginia, Maryland, and Tennessee—he would not go so far as North Carolina—and upon Kentucky and Missouri. Those who accepted of gifts would form a nucleus of acquiescence in the powers that be; and in the next election, or the next but one, we should have Black Republican orators on every stump, and where would Virginia's safety be?

There might be those who thought he was throwing away the treasure of the Union. He would tell them that in the last election he voted for Bell and Everett, but did so upon the declaration that if the Charleston Convention had made a nomination he would have supported it. But that failed, and he had thought that the conservative portion of the people might rally to save the country. In this he was disappointed. For years he had endeavored to drive back the wave of Northern fanaticism, and to save the Union—and in connection herewith he read from one of his speeches in Congress, wherein he appealed for justice in behalf of the South. He read it to show that his heart had been in this Union. He would do so upon terms of honor and safety.

But we must have security. He did not mean such security as was offered in the miserable abortion of the Peace Congress, but permanent security; and if we could not get it, he hoped to God the Union would be dissolved. That was the sentiment of the people. The agitation of African slavery was an ulcer eating away the vitals of the country; and unless we used the knife or the caustic, rooted out the evil, and settled the question forever, it would result in utter ruin. The agitation must be stopped, and stopped forever.

Turning to Mr. Wise, he expressed his utmost approbation of his course in repelling the invaders of the soil of Virginia. Speaking of the visit of the South Carolina and Mississippi Commissioners, after that occasion, and the disappointment of their hopes, he said South Carolina had subsequently determined to take the matter in her own hands, and yet she was blamed for not seeking the counsel of Virginia. He besought the gentleman from Rockbridge, and the gentleman from Bedford, not to blame South Carolina and Mississippi, but to blame Virginia. If she had gone into counsel with them when they did seek it, the present calamities would have been averted. But she refused it, and then the crisis came on—South Carolina had done her part towards saving the Union, and if Virginia had done as much—had been as sensitive of her wrongs—the Convention would not have been deliberating today upon measures to save the country. He proceeded to pay further compliments to South Carolina and the gallantry of her people, and vindicated them from the charge of want of proper respect and courtesy to the Virginia Commissioner, (Judge Robertson.)

He presumed that by this time the Convention was satisfied that he thought the proper course was to secede forthwith. If there was any doubt upon that subject, he would read some resolutions offered by himself in the county of Orange, on the 24th of Dec., 1860. The resolutions took the ground that the Union of the South is the safety of the South, and that the Virginia Convention, with the Southern States before the 4th of March. He thought if that advice had been followed, we should not now have heard one word about coercion. Whilst wrongs and insults had been heaped upon Virginia mountains high, she was still here deliberating whether she should go North or South. He would have had a conference of the fifteen slave States, from which he would not have excluded all the free States, but would have admitted some of the border States, whose interests at least would have been with the South; but if they could not have been purified by association, he would have recommended them. Such a consultation would have led to a result calculated to secure the peace of the country. But the miserable abortion that had sprung from the Peace Conference at Washington, should receive the scorn of every Southern man.

He did not participate in the apprehension expressed here, that if Virginia went out her slaves would be insecure; nor would it be necessary, as assumed by the gentleman from Rockbridge, to keep a standing army on the border lines, but only a small force at the principal points, for the purpose of collecting the revenue. The slaves would be more secure than ever.

He charged upon Wm. H. Seward the responsibility of breaking up the Union. To him he would say one kind word if it would save him from destruction. He had denounced him before his face, and had told him, if the question were to be settled between them, he would settle it in an hour. [Sensation.]

He went on to consider the question, what shall Virginia do? He had with pleasure heard the gentleman from Bedford (Mr. Goggin) say that in the final event of a secession he would wrap himself in the folds of the flag of Virginia, and perish with her